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ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

Public Health Conditions

of the

Aldridge Urban District

For the Year Ending 31st December 1956.

by

V. E. MILNE

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

and

U. BOOCOCK

M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

V. E. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Part-Time Officer.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

U. BOOCOCK, M.A.P.H.I.

Whole-Time Officer.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

K. B. WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I.

R. J. MOORE, M.A.P.H.I.

(Appointed 4th December 1956).

CLERKS:

MISS B. M. MOORE.

MRS. D. M. WILLIAMS.

(Appointed 18th June 1956).

TO THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Thirty-second Annual Report on the Public Health Conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1956, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 19/56 of the 11th December, 1956.

AREA.

The area of the District is 9,284 acres.

POPULATION.

The estimated home population at mid-summer 1956 was 35,930 (an increase of 2,830 from the previous year). This gives a population of 3.870 per acre.

INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses, according to rate books, at 31/12/56 was 10,264, an increase of 577 from last year.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The Rateable Value was £326,962, and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £1,210 for the year 1956-57.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are: Brickmaking, mining, agricultural, and heavy industries are now well established. The district is also largely residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

These statistics relate to the net births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General:

Live Births:-

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	332	299	631
Illegitimate	12	7	19
	<u>344</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>650</u>

Of these 650 births, 375 were registered locally, the remaining 275 being transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 57.7 per cent of the births were, therefore, registered locally, which is more than the percentage of last year (viz., 45.3).

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

The live birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 18.09 and the corrected live birth rate 16.10 - the latter can be compared with the birth rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 15.7 for 1956.

For 1955 the crude and corrected live birth rates were 15.65 and 14.71 respectively.

It should be noted that no birth took place in St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr (resident population approximately 1,450). Excluding the Hospital, the crude birth rate was 18.85 and the corrected birth rate 16.77.

Illegitimate Birth Rate - as calculated above was 0.52.

Still Birth Rate - 17 still births (males 7 and females 10) were registered, and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 26.15 (or 0.47 per 1,000 of the population). The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.0. The still birth rate for 1955 was 31.77.

Death Rate - 287 deaths (males 170, females 117).

The crude death rate was 7.98 and the corrected death rate 12.84 per 1,000 of the population - the latter can be compared with the death rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 11.7.

The Area Comparability Factors (A.C.F.'s) used for calculating the corrected birth and death rates have, for some years, been 0.94 and 1.40 respectively. This year, however, they have been amended, and are now 0.89 and 1.61 - a considerable difference. The use of the A.C.F.'s - by reducing the crude birth rate and increasing the crude death rate, makes an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole.

When so corrected, the birth and death rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, or with the corresponding corrected rates for any other area.

The present A.C.F.'s are derived from the final 1951 census populations.

The A.C.F.'s have, no doubt, been amended this year, because the rapid increase in the population in recent years has affected its composition by sex and age groups.

In addition the death rate A.C.F has, this, year, for the first time, been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any "residential institutions" in each area. Presumably St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr, must be regarded as such an institution in the Aldridge Urban District.

One hundred and nine deaths were transferred into the district and seven were transferred out.

Infantile Death Rate - 22 infants under one year of age died (of these, 18 were under four weeks of age), giving an Infantile Death Rate of 33.84 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Death Rate (all causes) for the whole of England and Wales was 23.8 per 1,000 Live Births, the lowest ever recorded in this country.

No illegitimate infant died under one year of age.

The following table sets out the population, the unadjusted live birth and death rates and the infantile death rates for the past 20 years.

It will be noted:--

- (1) Population - has more than doubled in the last 20 years.
- (2) Live Birth Rate - in recent years was considerably lower than in the years 1938-1948, with the exception of 1956 when it increased.
- (3) Death Rates - on the whole have been less than in the years 1937-1941.
- (4) Infantile Mortality Rates - in recent years have been lower than in the years 1937-1948.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Live Birth Rates.	Death Rates.	Infantile Mortality.
1937	17,890	18.55	12.1	72.3
1938	18,810	22.65	10.42	37.5
1939	20,420	20.42	10.11	57.5
1940	22,640	22.74	13.00	48.5
1941	24,010	22.61	9.53	66.29
1942	24,260	21.97	8.40	50.65
1943	24,240	23.18	9.32	49.80
1944	24,630	22.77	7.51	37.43
1945	24,830	21.66	9.14	49.08
1946	26,830	19.49	7.63	55.44
1947	28,930	22.53	7.77	41.41
1948	27,990	19.86	7.53	46.76
1949	28,450	16.66	7.66	23.20
1950	28,690	16.03	8.92	34.78
1951	29,167	13.47	8.05	25.44
1952	29,360	13.18	7.59	33.5
1953	30,230	13.89	7.10	30.95
1954	31,440	14.01	6.96	17.54
1955	33,100	15.56	7.40	30.88
1956	35,930	18.09	7.98	33.84

No death resulted from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Cancer etc. - 46 deaths resulted from cancer and included in these were 10 deaths due to cancer of the lung and/or bronchus.

Since January 1955, details of persons normally resident in the Aldridge Urban District who die of cancer (all kinds) are being forwarded monthly to the County Medical Officer of Health.

No death was due to Diphtheria, and 8 resulted from Pneumonia.

Laboratory Facilities - The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood etc.,

During the year reports on 13 swabs from throats etc., and 186 specimens of faeces were received - of which 72 were positive. One specimen of sputum was examined for tubercle bacilli, and this was negative.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The following services are provided by the Staffordshire County Council, as the Local Health Authority:

Ambulance Service.	Ante-Natal Clinics.
Home Help Service.	Infant Welfare Centres.
Diphtheria Immunisation (Private Practitioners, and at Infant Welfare Centres and School Clinics).	

Laboratory Services - The Public Health Laboratory Service, Martin Street, Stafford (Tel: Stafford 377) - Director, Dr. E. M. Mackay-Scolley (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

Chemical Analysis - County Analyst, A. Houlbrooke, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford (Tel: Stafford 578).

Hospitals - Those chiefly used are: The General, The Manor and St. John's Hospitals, Walsall, The Birmingham and Wolverhampton Hospitals, and the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals. Admissions are usually arranged by General Practitioners.

Maternity Accommodation - Hospitalization, on medical grounds, is arranged by the patient's Doctor, and for unsuitable home conditions, after investigation by the Health Visitor, by the Hospital Management Committee of the area in which the applicant resides.

Small Pox - Treatment and hospitalization are arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

Venereal Disease - Clinics are held at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, for diagnostic, consultative and curative purposes.

Tuberculosis - Treatment is now arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

WATER.

The Aldridge Urban District is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R.A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst. C.E., Chief Engineer, has kindly let me have the following information for the year 1956:

- (1) The supply to the Urban District has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

- (2) The supply at present ^{is} chiefly derived from one Pumping Station (Bourne Vale Pumping Station) within, and six Pumping Stations outside, the boundaries of the Urban District. A porportion of water from surface sources is also supplied to parts of the District.

Regular and frequent samples of all the waters are examined both bacteriologically and ehemically.

Bacteriological samples are also examined of the water prior to treatment where possible.

During 1956, 51 samples were examined from Bourne Vale Pumping Station, all of which were satisfactory. 262 samples out of 271 from the reservoirs at Barr Beacon were free from bact. coli. 14 samples from the Waterman's house at Aldridge were all free from coliform bacteria.

The average chemical results for 1956 for the samples taken from the Waterman's house at Aldridge, were as follows:-

pH		7.4	parts	per	million.
Alkalinity (CaCO)	135	"	"	"	"
Chlorides (Cl)	24.4	"	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	.006	"	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	6.4	"	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr at 27 C)	.14	"	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	129	"	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	96	"	"	"	"
Total Hardness	225	"	"	"	"
Total Solids	346	"	"	"	"
Iron (Fe)	.10	"	"	"	"
Manganese (Mn)	Trace	"	"	"	"
Calcium (Ca)	84.0	"	"	"	"
Magnesium (mg)	3.5	"	"	"	"
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	"	"	"	"
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	Nil	"	"	"	"
Free Cl	.04	"	"	"	"

- (3) The waters are not liable to plumbo solvency, all 14 samples from the Waterman's house being free from any detectable quantity of lead.

- (4) Chlorination is practised, as a precautionary measure, at most of the Pumping Stations.

In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

- (5) The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Urban District of Aldridge at 31st December, 1956, was 10,549, an increase of 971 from the previous year.

This information indicates that the quality and quantity of the water supply throughout the District has been most satisfactory.

There are still a few isolated wells in the less thickly populated parts of the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collection and disposal service has been maintained at a high standard. Notwithstanding increased costs and the steady increase in the number of houses to be dealt with, the service has been carried out efficiently and economically under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. (Full details are contained in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report).

HOUSING.

The number of houses erected during the year 1956:--

<u>Erected by Local Authority.</u>		<u>Otherwise.</u>	
Erected during 1956.	In course of erection at end of 1956.	Erected during 1956.	In course of erection at end of 1956.
244	204	747	556*
*(42 of these were erected by self-built enterprises)			
TOTALS:	Erected during 1956	991.	
	In course of erection at end of 1956	760.	

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act 1936, will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The following houses were demolished during the year:--

Gt. Barr Ward	9.
Pelsall Ward	6
Rushall Ward	5
Streetly Ward	2
TOTAL	<u>22</u>

SAMPLING OF MILK AND FOODS.

The County Sampling Officer has taken repeated samples of milk and foods, and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst. (See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation.

The arrangements for admissions of Infectious cases are usually made by the General Practitioner in attendance.

SCHOOLS.

It was not considered necessary to close a school on account of infectious disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case of diphtheria was notified during 1956.

All available epidemiological and clinical details were forwarded to the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer of Health.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This service is conducted by the County Authority, and the children are immunised by the County Medical Staff and General Practitioners.

Assuming the age groups of the population have not recently materially altered, the estimated age groups at 30th June 1956 (when the estimated total population was 35,930) were as follows:-

0-4 Age Group	3,538
5-14 Age Group	6,216

For the previous year these figures were 3,260 and 5,727.

The following information has been given by Dr. C.E. Jamison, the Area Medical Officer:-

The numbers of children immunised for the first time during the year 1956 were:-

Under 5 years of age	395
5-14 years of age	<u>60</u>
	<u>455</u>

The number of children re-immunised during the year 1956 was:-

All ages	695
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Immunisation state as at 31st December 1956:-

	Under 1.	1-4	5-9	10-14	TOTAL.
Immunised 1952-1956	31	1253	1935	1169	4388
Immunised 1951 or before	-	-	747	1728	2475

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING
THE YEAR 1956.

Disease.	Total Cases notified after Correction.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	1	-
Scarlet Fever	25	-
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-
Pneumonia	18	8
Meningococcal Infection	-	1 (not notified).
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-
Dysentery	24	-
Measles (excluding Rubella)	24	-
Whooping Cough	47	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-
" " (Non-Para- lytic)	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-
Food Poisoning	8	-
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	-	-
" " (Post In- fectious)-	-	-

ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS CASES (AFTER
CORRECTION) IN AGE GROUPS AND WARDS IS GIVEN BELOW:-

Age Groups.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Measles.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Polio- myeli- tis.
Under 1 year	-	-	4	6	-
1-2 years	-	-	2	2	-
2-3 "	-	-	3	11	-
3-4 "	2	-	2	4	-
4-5 "	2	-	2	4	-
5-9 "	15	1	7	17	-
10-14 "	5	-	2	1	-
15-24 "	1	-	2	1	-
25 and over	-	-	-	1	-
<u>WARD.</u>					
Aldridge	6	-	8	5	-
Great Barr	3	-	3	21	-
Pelsall	3	-	10	7	-
Pheasey	6	-	1	5	-
Rushall	7	1	2	-	-
Streetly	-	-	-	9	-
	25	1	24	47	-

AGE GROUPS.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Meningococcal Meningitis.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Dysentery.	Typhoid and Para- typhoid Fever.	Encephalitis.	Food Poisoning.
0-4 years	1	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	1
5-14 "	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	3
15-44 "	7	1	-	1	-	7	-	-	2
45-64 "	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WARD.									
Aldridge	14	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	5
Great Barr	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Pelsall	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pheasey	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rushall	1	-	-	-	1	11	-	-	2
Streetly	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	18	2	-	1	1	24	-	-	8

It will be seen that only one case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The following table shows the number of certain Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1956 and the attack rate per 1,000 of the population.

	Cases.	Rate.
Typhoid	-	-
Para-Typhoid	-	-
Scarlet Fever	25	0.69
Whooping Cough	47	1.30
Diphtheria	1	0.028
Erysipelas	2	0.056
Pneumonia	18	0.50
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0.028
Polionyelitis	-	-
Measles	24	0.66

POLIOMYELITIS.

Happily, no case of poliomyelitis was notified in 1956.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

A vaccine has now been prepared which it is believed gives a degree of protection against paralytic poliomyelitis. In the county, parents of children born between 1947 and 1956 inclusive have been given the opportunity of having their children vaccinated either at Welfare Clinics, or by General Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Forty cases of tuberculosis (see table below) were entered on the Register, 36 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary.

Sixteen cases occurred in Aldridge, 7 in Rushall, 2 in Pelsall, 2 in Pheasey, 6 in Streetly, and 7 in Great Barr.

Twelve of these 40 cases were notified from Institutions and 12 cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification on Form "A" as follows:-

Inward Transfers	10
Forms 1 or 2 (from Institutions)	-
First notification after death	<u>2</u>
	<u>12</u>

It will be seen 10 cases were transferred into the District. Two cases were transferred out.

The inward transfers came to reside as follows:-

In Rushall 1, Aldridge 2, Great Barr 2, and Streetly 5.

Seven cases were removed from the Register on account of:-

Death	5
"Recovered"	-
Outward Transfers	<u>2</u>
	<u>7</u>

There were 223 cases of tuberculosis on the register at 31/12/56 (excluding the cases resident in St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr) as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
112	88	9	14

The notification of Tuberculosis during the year was good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Three deaths from Pulmonary and 1 death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered, giving death rates per 1,000 of the population of 0.08 and 0.03 respectively.

General Register Office Circular (M.O.H) 4/1952 laid down that from 1st January 1953, all deaths (including tuberculosis deaths) in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, must not be regarded as outward transferrable deaths.

The following table shows the cases of Tuberculosis entered on the register and the number of deaths, according to the death returns, from this disease (classified according to age and sex) during the year 1956.

Age Periods.	<u>CASES ENTERED IN</u> <u>REGISTER.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-2 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-5 "	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5-10 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15"	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20"	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25"	3	7	-	-	1	-	-	-
25-35"	6	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
35-45"	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
45-55"	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65"	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65-75"	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
75 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	22	15	1	2	2	1	1	-

It was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any case of infectious disease to hospital.

Three children in one family however, whose Mother was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, were committed to the care of the County Children's Officer - Stafford, as there was a real danger of their becoming infected from their Mother. The necessary proceedings for this action were conducted by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children whose assistance and co-operation are appreciated.

FOOD POISONING.

Eight cases were notified during 1956 amongst 4 families - five in one family and one in each of the other three. All eight cases were due to the salmonella group of organisms.

These eight cases (together with contacts) involved very considerable work for the department, as repeated samples of faeces were taken regularly from the cases and contacts alike, for bacteriological examinations.

MORTUARY.

The Mortuary, at Anchor Road, Aldridge, has continued to be made use of by all concerned. The same part-time attendant is employed, and the over-all arrangements have proved satisfactory. No complaint has been received from any source.

PRIVIES.

The number of privies remaining throughout the district is 4; these are in situations where a public sewer is not available.

VACCINATION.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917 (See Small Pox).

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47).

No person was dealt with during the year 1956, under the provisions of the above Act.

CARAVANS.

The endeavour to control the use of caravans as dwellings is proving more and more difficult.

In addition to the two licensed sites in the district there are a number of constant and recurring cases which demand considerable inspectorial time in checking, in an endeavour to exercise control, to the detriment of routine and other public health work.

It would appear the Council have insufficient legal powers to satisfactorily cope with this problem.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT.

Mass Radiography Survey carried out by a Birmingham Mobile Unit at the Co-operative Hall, Stoke Street, Rushall (13th to 25th September 1956).

The following report gives details of the work done and the results obtained by the Unit during this visit.

<u>Groups Examined.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. Schools (children and teachers)	602	563	1165
2. Miscellaneous Firms	204	97	301
3. General Public	333	372	705
	<u>1139</u>	<u>1032</u>	<u>2171</u>

Recalls:

43 persons, of those examined during the survey, were recalled for further investigation and 14 received a clinical examination.

RESULTS OF SURVEY:

1. Tuberculosis Discovered:

<u>Group.</u>	<u>ACTIVE</u>	<u>INACTIVE.</u>		
	<u>*Referred.</u>	<u>* Referred.</u>	<u>Doctor.</u>	<u>No Action.</u>
1. Schools	1	-	1	-
2. Miscellaneous Firms	-	-	-	-
3. General Public	-	1	-	3
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

* "Referred" - The family doctor was advised to refer the patient to the Chest Clinic for investigation or treatment.

2. Non-Tuberculous Conditions:

Group.	*Referred.	Doctor.	No Action.
1. Schools	1	1	2
2. Miscellaneous Firms	1	1	-
3. General Public	6	9	3
	8	11	5

*"Referred" - The family doctor was advised to refer the patient to the Chest Clinic for investigation or treatment.

Comments - It is pleasing to note that of the 2,171 who were X-rayed, only one case of active tuberculous disease in a scholar, was found. The case was placed under the care of a Chest Physician for treatment. The majority of the non-tuberculous cases were of pneumoconiotic origin, due largely to their involvement in industries carrying a dust hazard.

Grateful thanks are due to the Medical Director, the Organising Secretary and all the staff for their close co-operation, efficient conduct of the survey, and the detailed report.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT - WALSALL SESSIONS.

The above service, carried out at the Ambulance Depot, Hatherton Road, Walsall, has increased its days of attendance from twice monthly to once weekly, as follows:-

Every Monday (Bank Holidays excepted)

11.15 a.m.	to	12.30 p.m.
1.45 p.m.	to	3.0 p.m.
3.15 p.m.	to	4.30 p.m.

The cases X-rayed at these sessions are referred by General Practitioners, industrial Medical Officers etc. Members of the public are not examined unless they are so referred.

Experience has made it clear that the Unit is of greater value when the persons dealt with have been recommended as above.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The health of the population was good during 1956.

The crude birth rate (18.09) is considerably higher than the average for the previous 5 years (14.02).

On the other hand the crude death rate (7.98) is slightly higher than the average for the last 5 years (7.42). For the ninth consecutive year no death resulted from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion. This is most gratifying.

The Infantile Death Rate (33.84) was slightly higher (in 1955 it was 30.88). The rate for all England and Wales was 23.8 and was the lowest ever recorded for this country.

It is to be regretted that the re-housing of families resident in unfit houses is not keeping pace with the progress of slum clearance.

Consequently a number of unfit houses continue in occupation under undesirable conditions.

One Tuberculous person was re-housed during the year. The co-operation between the Housing and the Health Committees in the problem of re-housing tuberculous persons continues, as in the past.

The work of the Health Department has been efficiently conducted during the year. The work of Slum Clearance has been progressive and the inspection of meat has been maintained at a high standard. These two sections of the Public Health service involve considerable inspectorial time. A constant endeavour is made to deal with complaints and other routine work as fully as possible.

All the staff from the Chief Public Health Inspector downwards have conducted their respective duties conscientiously and willingly.

The Chief Public Health Inspector's thorough working knowledge of the District and its requirements is of great value.

I again desire to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and also all fellow Officers and Council Staff, for the co-operation, consideration and courtesy received in the course of my duties during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ENGLAND
AND WALES FOR 1956.

Live Births/Deaths - Annual rates per 1,000 population.
Still Births - Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
Infant Mortality - Rate per 1,000 related live births.

Birth Rate 15.7 - 0.7 higher than that for 1955 - highest since 1950.

Death Rate 11.7 - same as for 1955.

Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age) 23.8 - the lowest ever recorded. This was 1.2 below that for 1955 - the previous lowest.

The estimated total population for England and Wales for the year 1956 was 44,821,000 and the estimated home population was 44,667,000

TOTAL DEATHS.

Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1956).

CAUSES OF DEATH.		M.	F.
ALL CAUSES:		170	117
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory		2	1
2. Tuberculosis, other		1	--
3. Syphilitic Disease		2	--
4. Diphtheria		--	--
5. Whooping Cough		--	--
6. Meningococcal Infections		--	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis		--	--
8. Measles		--	--
9. Other Infective Parasitic Diseases		2	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach		1	6
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus		9	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm Breast		--	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus		--	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms		15	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia		--	1
16. Diabetes		--	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System		17	22
18. Coronary Disease, Angina		31	7
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease		8	3
20. Other Heart Disease		24	20
21. Other Circulatory Diseases		6	4
22. Influenza		--	--
23. Pneumonia		7	4
24. Bronchitis		10	5
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System		4	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum		3	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea		1	--
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis		1	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate		1	--
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion		--	--
31. Congenital Malformations		3	--
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases.		16	19
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents		2	2
34. All Other Accidents		3	1
35. Suicide		1	--
36. Homicide and Operations of War		--	--

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. Male. Female.

Total	14	8
Legitimate	14	8
Illegitimate	--	--

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

Total	13	5
Legitimate	13	5
Illegitimate	--	--

Live Births.

Total	344	306
Legitimate	332	299
Illegitimate	12	7

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1956.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Twenty-ninth Annual Report for the year 1956.

I would respectfully express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their constant support, and to the Medical Officer of Health, Clerk of the Council, and Surveyor, for the help and co-operation received from them.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and the supply of water has been maintained in a satisfactory state of quality and quantity throughout the year.

A few cases exist where the only water supply obtainable is from wells.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, with water closets provided for each individual house.

There still remains, however, some pail closets and privies in such areas where sewers are not available.

Number of privies remaining in the	
district	4
Number of pails remaining in the	
district	58

The following details are supplied by the courtesy of Mr. J. Mason, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor:-

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

Main 60" diameter outfall for surface water drainage of Aldridge completed with subsidiary sewers to the Leighswood area. 18" diameter storm water intercepting sewer laid across Anchor Meadows from Leighswood Road.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Cleansing of Rushall Brook continued to District boundary to give clear flow back to Stubbers Green Pool.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	By Local Authority	244
(b)	By Other Authority	Nil
(c)	By Private Enterprise	747

NUMBER OF HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

(a)	By Local Authority	204
(b)	By Other Authority	Nil
(c)	By Private Enterprise	556

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION WORK.

(April 1st, 1956 to March 31st 1957).

Rats and Mice Destruction work has been carried out throughout the year in close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division.

One man is employed part-time as rodent operative. The time spent on rodent work during the year has been equivalent to 62% of the full working time of one man.

PREMISES INSPECTED.

(To confirm Infestation or Otherwise).

	Totals Inspected.	Found Infested.	Found Non-Infested.
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	189	134	54
Business Premises	24	23	1
Council Premises.	9	7	2
	<u>222</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>57</u>

VISITS TO CARRY OUT TREATMENT OF INFESTED PREMISES.

Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	1163
Business Premises	262
Council Premises (Tests) Sewers	237
Council Premises	<u>119</u>
	<u>1781</u>

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

New industrial developments are being kept under observation to avoid, as far as possible, nuisance from smoke and grit.

In the future development of industries in the district every precaution should be taken, by undertaking and covenant, that the firms concerned should not produce nuisance from grit, smoke and other gases.

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF
HOUSEHOLD REFUSE.

(1st April 1956, to 31st March 1957).

I have the honour to submit herewith my report on the work of collection and disposal of household refuse for the year 1956-57.

STAFF.

The estimate in the early part of the year provided for the employment of a personnel of 22.

However, actual working hours signified the attendance of men at work amounting to an equivalent of 19 men each week throughout the year. It will therefore be seen that there was a shortage of staff actually at work equivalent of 3 men each week.

ABSENTEEISM.

Loss of one man working hours through absenteeism has been as follows:-

One man hours lost by workers certified sick	1353 or 3.1% of possible working hours.
One man hours lost through causes other than certified sickness	<u>1114 or 2.6% "</u>
TOTAL ONE MAN HOURS LOST	<u>2467 or 5.7% "</u>

BONUS.

The amount of bonus paid to men employed in the house refuse collection service is as follows:-

Incentive Bonus	£550. 10. 11.
Merit Bonus	<u>862. 4. -.</u>
TOTAL BONUS	<u>£1412. 14. 11.</u>

SICK BENEFIT.

The amount of wages paid as sick benefit to the staff whilst absent from work for reasons of certified sickness has shown a net cost to the Council of £137.2.9.

VEHICLES EMPLOYED.

One 13 cu.yd S & D Freighter Dust Cart -- No.4.
One 13 cu.yd S & D Freighter Dust Cart -- No.5.
One Fore and Aft S & D Tipping Dust Cart No.6.
One Fore and Aft S & D Tipping Dust Cart No.7.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Tipping has been carried out at Stubbers Green, Aldridge, on the Council's own land.

PROGRESS OF WORK.

The average period of collection in the districts, carried out by the respective vehicles is as follows:-

Side Loaders:-

S. & D No.4.	8 days
S & D No.5	9.8 days

Fore and Aft Tippers:-

S & D No.6	8.1 days
S & D No.7	8.2 days

Average	<u>8.5 days</u>
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OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

1. Area (statute acres) - land and inland water 9,284 acres.
2. Population at 30th June 1956 (Registrar General's Estimate) 35,930 persons.
3. Total refuse collections (tons) - estimated 11,107 tons.
4. Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) 17 cwts.
5. Number of premises from which refuse is collected 11,141 premises.
6. Endeavour is made to ensure weekly collections. Average collection attained over year 8.5 days.
7. Average haul, single journey to final disposal point. 3.5 miles.
8. Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection 100%
9. Total refuse disposed of (of which -- tons were disposed of for other local authorities) 11,107 tons.
10. Methods of disposal (salvage excluded) - semi-controlled tipping 100%

COST STATEMENT SUMMARY 1956-57.

Particulars.	Collection.	Disposal.	Totals.	Percentage of total gross expenditure.
	£	£	£	%
1. GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
1. Labour	7683	59	7742	52
2. Transport	3448	762	4210	28
3. Plant, equipment, land and buildings	2246	208	2454	17
4. Other items	316	218	534	3
5. Total gross expenditure	13693	1247	14940	100
2. GROSS INCOME:	4	-	4	-
3. NET COST:	13689	1247	14936	-
4. Capital expenditure net from revenue (included above)	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
UNIT COSTS:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5. Gross cost per ton, labour only	13. 10	1	13. 11	
6. Gross cost per ton, transport only	6. 4	1. 5	7. 9	
7. Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	24. 8	2. 3	26. 11	
8. Net cost per 1,000 population	£ 381	£ 35	£ 416	
9. Net cost per 1,000 premises	1229	112	1341	

VISITS MADE - PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS.

Inspections made re Housing Defects	
Informal...	347
Public Health Act..	130
Housing Act ...	15
Inspections made re Demolition..	472
Inspections made re Clearance...	251
Inspections made re Housing Act:	
Certificate of Disrepair...	17
Improvement Grants.....	47
Undertakings...	10
Number of Visits re:-	
Work in default ...	5
Overcrowding...	16
Food Shops. ...	41
Fish Friers ...	6
Cafe-Restaurant ...	6
Milk Shops. ...	6
Ice Cream Premises. ...	7
Bakehouses. ...	2
Factory Canteen ...	1
Water Sampling. ...	1
Factories.. ...	42
Outworkers. ...	4
Drainage... ...	178
Closet Accommodation...	5
Cesspool... ...	45
Dustbins... ...	666
Refuse - House. ...	290
Trade. ...	19
Vermin. ...	15
Animals - Improperly kept..	48
Ditches ...	2
Water Supply... ...	9
Accumulations.. ...	17
Tents, Vans, Sheds. ...	375
Smoke Abatement ...	40
Meat Inspections...	363
Unsound Foods.. ...	18
Food Poisoning. ...	21
Housing Accommodation..	13
Rats and Mice (By Public Health Inspectors)	55
Miscellaneous.. ...	259
Aged Persons...	3
Infectious Disease:-	
Inquiries ...	278
Disinfection - Premises..	4
Mortuary...	5

TOTAL VISITS 4154

DUSTBIN SCHEME.

Public Health Act 1936, Section 75(3). Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953, Section 8.

During the year dustbins were supplied under the above provisions as follows:-

Dustbins supplied to private houses	378
Dustbins supplied to Council houses	<u>131</u>
	<u>509</u>

NOTICES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR.

	Notices Served.	Notices Completed.	Other Notices Superseded or Rescinded.
Informal	840	820	37
Statutory	54	35	-
	<u>894</u>	<u>855</u>	<u>37</u>

FACTORIES ACT.

Number of Factories on Register (including Bakehouses)	106
Number of Visits made - Factories	42
Bakehouses	2
Outworker's Premises	<u>4</u>
	<u>48</u>

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN FACTORIES - DEALT WITH.

Insufficient...	1
Found defective ...	3
Not separate for sexes...	-
Want of cleanliness ...	1
Inadequate ventilation...	<u>2</u>
	<u>7</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Primary visits and inquiries...	278
Disinfection of infected premises..	4

COMPLAINTS.

Complaints received from the public at the Health Department and dealt with, including all manner of subjects, drainage, house defects, nuisances etc., - 1112

NATURE AND NUMBER OF STRUCTURAL DEFECTS DEALT WITH IN HOUSES: TOGETHER WITH NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS.

<u>House Defects:</u>	
House Roofs.....	25
Ceilings, plaster. ...	33
Walls, plaster ...	52
External walls, brickwork and pointing. ...	22
Floor, boards and skirting boards.	17
Floor paving, quarries.	1
Windows, sash cords...	22
Windows, frames...	22
Windows, pointing around..	1
Doors, frames. ...	1
Doors. ...	8
Firegrates ...	3
External Walls -	
Verge fillet...	6
Rendering.....	2

Window puttywork...	7
Defective yard paving..	1
Hot water cisterns.	1
Sinks, fender and channel..	2
Food Store, insufficient ventilation...	2
Inspection chamber cover...	1
Gully..	1
Overflowing cesspools..	1
Firegrates, ovens..	1
Firegrates, brickwork..	2
Firegrates, mantel shelf...	1
Chimney, brickwork.	13
Chimney, pointing..	8
Chimney, pots..	5
Fireback boiler ...	1
General dampness...	3
Chimney flues..	2
Water service pipes ...	9

Closet Accommodation Defects:

Water Closet - Structure...	4
Cistern.	2
Pedestals...	7
Seats...	4
Defective flushing apparatus ...	2
Joints..	6
Wash hand basin. ...	2

Drainage Defects:

Gully bed.....	3
Drains, choked.	6
Inspection chambers defective..	1
Eavesgutters...	11
Rainwater downspouts...	3
Sink waste pipe ...	5
Sink supports..	1
Drains, defective..	2

FOOD PREMISES. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF:

Inspections made:

Milk Shops.....	6
Food Shops.	38
Ice Cream Shops ...	7
Re Unsound Food ...	18
Cafe/Restaurant ...	6
Factory Canteen ...	1

Visits made for supervision of food premises 76

An endeavour is being made to keep in contact with food premises.

UN SOUND FOODS.

The following goods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption:-

	No.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Bovine Liver and Portions	15	352	12
Lungs and Trachea	15	258	-
Lungs	9	77	-
Diaphragm	2	3	8
Heart	1	5	-
Head and Tongue	17	359	-
Head	2	32	-
Mesentery	-	41	8
Udder	2	20	-
Kidney Fat	-	2	-
Carcase	1	538	-
Offal	-	98	-
Pleura	2	-	6
Spleen	1	1	8
Beef pieces and joints	-	111	-
Fat	-	25	-
Point of Brisket	-	2	-
Pigs Lungs	33	49	4
Kidney	1	-	4
Spleen	2	-	8
Liver	12	19	-
Head	4	28	-
Head and Tongue	5	40	-
Heart	2	1	-
Feet, chops and joints	-	58	-
Bacon	-	8	-
Sheeps Livers	51	101	-
Lungs	431	488	4
Kidney	1	-	4
Heart	7	3	4
Heart and Trachea	2	3	8
Lungs, Trachea and Spleen	1	3	8
Breast of Mutton	-	4	-
Mutton pieces and joints	-	100	-
Meat scraps, pigs pudding and bones	-	27	-
Lard	-	3	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sausage	-	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
<hr/>			
	619	2869	5 $\frac{5}{8}$
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Halibut	-	28	-
Dairy Crest Double Gloucester Cheese	-	27	-
Corned Mutton	1 tin	6	-
Corned Beef	2 "	12	-
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	3tins	73	-
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Eggs.	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ doz.	-	-
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DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT
UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955, DURING 1956.

The following records of samples of milk and other foods, taken in the district have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

MILK.

Milk, Pasteurised		31
Milk, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested		28
Milk, Channel Islands (all grades)		13
Milk, Sterilised		<u>33</u>
	TOTAL	<u>105</u>
Number of samples taken	105	
Number of samples genuine	104	
Number of samples below standard	1	

GENERAL FOODS.

Number of samples taken	97
Number of samples genuine	97

Classification:-

Almonds, Ground	Margarine with Butter.
Angelica	Mandarin Oranges in syrup
Apple, (Sweetened)	Malt Loaf
Biscuits (Salted)	Marmalade, Lemon
Butter	Meat Loaf, Minced
Beef Suet (Flaked)	Mint Jelly
Beechams Powders	Mincemeat
Baked Beans in Tomato	Meat Paste, Chicken & Ham
Beef and Kidney Pie	Pineapple Cubes
Biscuits with real Butter	Pepper
Blackcurrants in Syrup	Peaches in Syrup
Blackcurrant Jam	Pickle
Cake Flour, Sweetened	Plum Pudding
Cake Mix	Ravioli with Tomato Sauce
Camphorated Oil, BP.	Raisins
Cheese, Gruyere	Raspberries In Syrup
Parmesan Grated	Rhubarb in Syrup
Chicken Fillets	Rice Creamola
Cabbage, Pickled Red	Sausages, Pork
Chop Sauce	Beef
Cherries in Light Syrup	Sugar, Demerara
Coffee & Chicory Essence	Icing
Corned Beef	Coffee
Crab, Dressed	Soft Drink Base
Fritter Flour Mixture	Soup, Kidney
Fat, Golden Shortening	Irish Stew
Fat, Vegetable	Spam
Flour	Steak and Kidney
Fruit Salad in Syrup	Sultanas
Grapefruit in Syrup	Sugar Corn
Ice Cream	Tea
Jelly, Greengage	Wheat Munchies
Lard	Vinegar

The Milk sample below standard was a Sterilised Milk which was found to contain 0.8% of Added Water. Repeat Samples taken immediately following were found to be Genuine.

MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT FOR

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1956.

Designation.	No. Submitted.	CLEANLINESS. Satis. Unsatis.	PHOSPHATASE. Pass. Fail.	TURBIDITY. Pass. Fail.	Biological Submitted.	Found to contain Tubercle Bacilli
TUBERCULIN TESTED	10	9	1	-	-	6
TUBERCULIN TESTED (PASTEURISED)	76	75	1	76	-	-
PASTEURISED	76	75	1	76	-	4
STERILISED	52	-	-	-	52	-
TOTALS -	214	159	3	152	-	10

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Act)	689
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	2060
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	86
(b)	Number of Inspections made for that purpose	172
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	48
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human inhabitation	641
(5)	Houses on which undertakings were given and completed	Nil
	Houses on which undertakings were given and have not been completed	Nil

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice:

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	86
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	19
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By Owners	17
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 25 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 32

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 28

(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Order Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding:

(a) (1) Number of dwelling houses recorded overcrowded at the end of the year 1

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 1

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 9

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 6

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

U. BOOCOCK

Chief Public Health Inspector.

